1	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
2	STATE OF MARYLAND
3	
4	V Case Number 03-CR-19-000116
5	
6	ANDREW ANTHONY SMALL
7	REPORTER'S OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
8	Guilty Plea
9	Towson, Maryland
10	September 16, 2019
11	BEFORE: Honorable Justin King, Associate
12	Judge
13	
14	APPEARANCES:
15	
16	FOR THE STATE:
17	EVERETT BRYANT, ESQUIRE
18	
19	FOR THE DEFENDANT:
20	ALAN COHEN, ESQUIRE
21	
22	
23	Transcribed By:
24	Randy K. Mackubin
25	Official Court Reporter

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1
             MR. BRYANT: Everett Bryant on behalf of the
 2
    State, B-R-Y-A-N-T. Your Honor, calling State versus
 3
    Andrew Small, 03-CR-19-000116.
 4
              THE COURT: Good morning.
 5
             MR. COHEN: Your Honor, good morning. For the
 6
    record, Alan Cohen. My appearance should be entered on
 7
    behalf of Mr. Small in this case.
 8
              THE COURT: Spell both your first and last
 9
    names for the record.
10
             MR. COHEN: Yes, sir. First name is Alan,
    A-L-A-N, and last name is Cohen, C-O-H-E-N.
11
12
              THE COURT: Very good. How are we proceeding?
13
             MR. BRYANT: We have reached a plea agreement.
14
    However if we may approach in reference to a binding
15
    plea?
16
              THE COURT:
                         Sure.
17
              (WHEREUPON, counsel approached the bench.)
18
              THE COURT: Everybody needs to come up. You
19
    need to hear this.
20
             MR. COHEN: I haven't been in this courtroom
21
    in years.
22
              (WHEREUPON, there was an off-the-record
23
              conference.)
24
              THE COURT: All right. What are we doing with
25
    Mr. Small?
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1 MR. BRYANT: Your Honor, the agreement that we 2 had been discussing or asking the Court to bind to, the 3 Defendant would plead quilty to Count 1, which is first 4 degree assault. Upon a finding of quilt, the State 5 would enter a nolle prose as to the balance of charges. 6 At disposition, the State would recommend a suspended 7 The Defendant's guidelines call for a sentence. 8 sentence of three to eight years on first degree 9 assault. However, the Defendant does not have a prior 10 record. On probation, we would ask the Defendant be 11 ordered to forfeit a handoun which he legally owns, 12 have no contact with the victim, and complete an anger 13 management program. 14 THE COURT: Do we have an anger management 15 program -- well, the only one we have is user 16 intervention. Is this a domestic --17 MR. BRYANT: No. 18 MR. COHEN: No. 19 THE COURT: We don't -- so we will do it on 20 our probation form, just an anger management program. 21 MR. BRYANT: Yes, Your Honor. 22 Is there is an option -- somebody THE COURT: 23 took away all of my probation forms. So condition 24 Number 33, other, complete anger management as 25 recommended. Unless you got one.

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1
             MR. COHEN: I don't have one offhand. If they
 2
    can't find one, they can call me.
 3
             THE COURT: What else? How long is the
 4
    probation?
 5
             MR. BRYANT: Your Honor, we were leaving to
    the Court as to the length of probation. The facts of
 6
 7
    the case involve a gun pointing. The relationship
 8
    between the Defendant and the victim is that the
 9
    Defendant was the property manager for a location where
10
    the victim maintained an office space. There were
11
    contentious relations between the two of them related
12
    to the tenancy. And depending on who you talk to, the
13
    other party is involved or the primary reason for those
14
15
             THE COURT: We are not talking about a young
16
    man here.
17
                         No, he is 55.
             MR. COHEN:
18
             THE COURT:
                         I take that back. He is very
19
    young.
20
             MR. COHEN: I wish I was 55.
21
             MR. BRYANT: Eventually these things get to
22
    the point where there is a text message which is sent
23
    where the Defendant indicates that he would kill the
24
    victim. The victim then calls 911, reports this text
25
    message was sent. He is on the phone with 911 and
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1
    attempts to leave the building. He leaves -- when he
 2
    goes to leave the building, there is a confrontation
 3
    between the Defendant and him in which the Defendant
 4
    pulls a gun, points it at the victim --
 5
              THE COURT: I assume the gun is licensed?
 6
             MR. BRYANT: It is. He lawfully carried the
 7
    firearm. He turned it over to the police.
 8
             MR. COHEN: Police came to his house. He gave
 9
    them the gun.
10
              THE COURT: What are we doing, a suspended
11
    sentence? For what period of time?
12
             MR. COHEN: I don't think this guy will need a
13
    million years of probation.
14
              THE COURT: I'm not talking about probation.
15
    What are we looking at, five?
16
             MR. BRYANT: Your Honor, I would ask for
17
    something in the guidelines to be suspended.
18
              THE COURT: Okay. We will do five.
19
             MR. BRYANT: That is fair.
20
             MR. COHEN: That is fair.
21
              THE COURT: Five years suspended. I'm fine.
22
             MR. BRYANT: Thank you.
23
             MR. COHEN:
                          Thank you.
              (WHEREUPON, proceedings resumed in open
24
25
              court.)
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THE COURT: Mr. Bryant?

MR. BRYANT: Your Honor, the plea agreement as discussed is the Defendant is going to enter a guilty plea as to first degree assault, which I have as Count Number One. Upon a finding of guilt, the State would enter a nolle prose as to the wall of charges. The State is recommending a suspended sentence in this matter.

On probation we would ask the Defendant forfeit his firearm or the firearm seized by the police; have no contact with the victim, Mr. Watkins, as well as complete an anger management program. It is my understanding the Court has agreed to bind to a five year suspended sentence with those terms of probation.

Your Honor, I can also put on record at this time the Defendant does not have any prior record to this point. He is 55 years old at this current time. This plea arrangement has been discussed with the victim who is present today. The victim did indicate that he was okay with the plea arrangement as currently constructed.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRYANT: I have also spoken with the victim regarding victim impact. I advised him about what a binding plea entails. Because the plea itself

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1
    is binding, it is my understanding the victim is not
 2
    going to give a victim impact statement at this time
 3
    but I would like to let Your Honor know that he is
 4
    here.
 5
              THE COURT: Okay. Was there any time spent?
             MR. COHEN: Just one day. There was something
 6
 7
    else also. I apologize for not mentioning it at the
 8
    bench. Mr. Bryant and I have discussed. The State --
 9
    they are not going to be opposed to me filing a motion
    for modification of sentence but not making any
10
11
    affirmative recommendation on that, since this is a
12
    binding plea. I will file that. But obviously it will
13
    be up to the Court.
14
              THE COURT: Right. Are you asking me to hold
15
    it sub curia?
16
             MR. COHEN: Yes, I am, Your Honor.
17
              THE COURT:
                          Which means you are going to
18
    attach an order?
19
             MR. COHEN: Yes, sir.
20
              THE COURT: Okay. Very good. Would you like
21
    to advise your client?
             MR. COHEN: Yes, sir, I would, Your Honor.
22
23
    Mr. Small, I have entered into a binding plea agreement
24
    in your case and you are going to be pleading guilty to
25
    first degree assault, which carries a maximum penalty
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of 25 years. You are receiving a five year suspended sentence and a period of probation which Judge King feels is appropriate under the circumstances of the case.

Additionally, you are going to have complete an anger management program as a condition of your probation. You are going to have to — the gun is already in the hands of the police. You will have to agree to forfeit that. Additionally, I'm going to be filing a motion for modification of sentence that will be held open; that is what sub curia means. There is no guarantee as to what will happen to that modification of sentence. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

MR. COHEN: The State will nolle prose all of the -- that means dismiss all of the remaining charges in this case; do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

MR. COHEN: Before His Honor Judge King can accept your guilty plea, he has to know that it is knowingly, freely and voluntarily given, and you understand all of the rights that you are giving up. So I'm going to ask you a series of questions so the judge can make that determination.

Sir, how old are you?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Fifty-four. How far have you gone in school? 2 MR. COHEN: 3 THE DEFENDANT: Bachelor's Degree. MR. COHEN: So fair to say you can read and 4 5 write and understand the English language? 6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 7 MR. COHEN: Are you under the influence of any 8 drugs or alcohol or prescription medication? 9 THE DEFENDANT: No, I'm not. MR. COHEN: Are you under the influence of any 10 11 substance that might affect your thinking process? 12 No, I'm not. THE DEFENDANT: 13 MR. COHEN: It is my understanding you have no 14 record, you have never been arrested except for this 15 incident. So you are not on parole or probation? 16 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir, I'm not. 17 MR. COHEN: If for some reason there was 18 something you or I didn't know about, you were on 19 parole or probation, a guilty plea could violate your 20 parole or probation and Judge King wouldn't have 21 anything to say about that or have anything to do about 22 that; do you understand that? 23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 24 MR. COHEN: It is also my understanding that 25 you are a United States citizen. If you are not a

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United States citizen a criminal conviction could
 1
 2
    result in your deportation to your country of origin
 3
    but my understanding is you were born here in the
    United States?
 4
 5
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
 6
              MR. COHEN: So they can't deport you back to
 7
    the US.
             Are you under the care of a psychiatrist or in
 8
    a mental institution recently?
 9
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              No, I am not.
10
              MR. COHEN: Have you ever been?
11
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              No, I am not.
12
             MR. COHEN: Are you currently taking any types
13
    of medication?
14
                              No, sir.
              THE DEFENDANT:
15
              MR. COHEN: You understand you don't have to
16
    plead quilty?
17
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes, sir.
18
             MR. COHEN: You understand you have a right to
19
    a jury trial?
20
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
21
              MR. COHEN: A jury trial would be 12 citizens.
22
     They would be selected randomly from the voting rolls
23
    and motor vehicle rolls of Baltimore County, do you
2.4
    understand that?
25
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes, sir.
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MR. COHEN: Also, all 12 of those people if the jury was selected would have to agree unanimously beyond a reasonable doubt that you either were not quilty or quilty; do you understand that? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. MR. COHEN: If all 12 could not come to a unanimous decision, that could result in a hung jury being declared by the Court and the State would have an option of retrying you until eventually a jury came back with a unanimous verdict. THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. MR. COHEN: You understand that you are giving up your right to a jury trial today? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. MR. COHEN: You also understand you could have a right to a judge trial. It wouldn't be Judge King, but we would find another judge and a judge would decide by the same standard that a jury would, beyond a reasonable doubt, do you understand that? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do. MR. COHEN: And a judge would make that decision rather than 12 people; do you understand that? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. MR. COHEN: All right. Also, you understand by pleading quilty you are waiving your right to

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1
    confront and cross examine the witnesses. If there was
 2
    a trial, a witness would take -- well, take the stand,
 3
    it is right up there, where that microphone is, and the
 4
    State would ask questions; that is known as direct
 5
    examination. And I would ask questions; that is known
    as cross-examination. However, by pleading guilty what
 6
 7
    will happen is we're going to accept the State's
 8
    version of this to establish the probable cause, do you
 9
    understand that?
10
              THE DEFENDANT:
                             Yes.
11
              MR. COHEN: I can tell you after hearing that,
12
    I have been a lawyer over 30 years, Judge King will
13
    find you guilty; do you understand that?
14
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
15
              MR. COHEN: You understand we can't say well,
16
    this is what our case would be and Judge King sits up
17
    there and weighs this against that. No. We are going
18
    to accept the statement of probable cause provided by
19
    the State; do you understand that?
20
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
21
              MR. COHEN: And nobody will be asking any
22
    questions.
23
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes, sir.
24
              MR. COHEN: You also understand you have a
25
    right to call witnesses and have those witnesses
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1 testify on your behalf; do you understand that? 2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 3 MR. COHEN: You understand if they didn't show up we could ask the sheriff to go out and pick them up, 4 5 do you understand that? 6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 7 MR. COHEN: You understand that I have 8 interviewed three witnesses in your case and as I'm 9 required to do as an option to the Court, I did give 10 their phone numbers to the State's attorney, 11 Mr. Bryant, so Mr. Bryant could interview them; do you 12 understand that? 13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 14 MR. COHEN: We won't be presenting any 15 witnesses in this case, do you understand that? 16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 17 MR. COHEN: You also have understand you have 18 a right to testify and you have a right to remain 19 silent? 20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 21 MR. COHEN: If you chose to testify, I would 22 ask you questions, that is direct. Mr. Bryant, who 23 represents the State, would be able to ask you 24 questions; that is known as cross-examination. Do you 25 understand that?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 2 MR. COHEN: Also understand in the State of 3 Maryland, the judge has the right to ask you questions, 4 do you understand that? 5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 6 MR. COHEN: Do you understand that by pleading 7 guilty you are giving up your right to testify, do you 8 understand that? 9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 10 MR. COHEN: You also understand that if you 11 had gone to trial and decided you didn't want to 12 testify, you wouldn't have to, do you understand that? 13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 14 MR. COHEN: I could ask for Maryland Pattern 15 Jury Instruction 3:17 which is two sentences which says 16 the jury should not consider the fact that you did not 17 testify and as a matter of fact, they can't even 18 discuss it in their deliberations; do you understand 19 that? 20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 21 MR. COHEN: The reason for that you 22 understand, there is no burden of proof on you, the 23 Defendant. The burden of proof is on the State to 24 prove each and every element beyond a reasonable doubt. 25 Do you understand that?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 2 MR. COHEN: You also understand you have a 3 Fifth Amendment right to remain silent, do you understand that? 4 5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. MR. COHEN: If you had gone to trial you have 6 7 a right to contest any constitutional, factual or legal 8 defenses. Factual would be I didn't do it; It wasn't 9 true. Do you understand that? 10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 11 MR. COHEN: Do you understand that by pleading 12 quilty you are giving up that right, do you understand 13 that? 14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 15 MR. COHEN: I also mean by constitutional and 16 legal, we mean whether any of your rights -- I'm not 17 saying any were violated but I'm just saying we would 18 be able to contest whether or not any of your 19 constitutional or legal rights were violated; do you 20 understand that? 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 22 MR. COHEN: Now, by pleading guilty you limit 23 your appellate rights. I'm going to tell you your 24 chances for success on any of those issues are slim and 25 none. First is the jurisdiction of the Court.

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1
    Jurisdiction means are we in the right court to try
 2
    this case. Since these events occurred in Catonsville,
 3
    Catonsville is in Baltimore County. We are in the
 4
    correct court. And if you raised that as an issue you
 5
    would be unsuccessful; do you understand that?
 6
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
 7
             MR. COHEN: Second is the competency of
 8
    counsel. Are you satisfied with my services?
 9
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
10
             MR. COHEN: Anything you asked me to do that I
11
    didn't do?
12
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              No.
13
             MR. COHEN: Anything you told me not to do
14
    that I ignored you and went ahead and did it anyway?
15
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              No.
16
             MR. COHEN: Based on the three answers you
17
    have given today, I can tell you that in all likelihood
18
    you would be unsuccessful. The third ground is the
19
    legality of the sentence. As I told you, the maximum
20
    penalty is 25 years on a first degree assault and a
21
    significant fine. Judge King has bound himself to
22
    impose a five year suspended sentence; do you
23
    understand that?
2.4
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
25
             MR. COHEN: He will give you supervised
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1 probation; do you understand that? 2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 3 Therefore, the sentence is legal. MR. COHEN: 4 So if you were to raise that issue, you would be 5 unsuccessful; do you understand that? 6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 7 MR. COHEN: The last ground is whether or not 8 the plea is freely, knowing and voluntarily given. 9 this plea freely, knowing and voluntarily given? 10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 11 MR. COHEN: Did anyone force you, threaten 12 you, coerce you into pleading guilty in this case? 13 THE DEFENDANT: No. 14 MR. COHEN: Do you have any questions of me or 15 the Court about your quilty plea? 16 THE DEFENDANT: No questions. 17 Thank you. Your Honor, thank you. MR. COHEN: 18 THE COURT: I find your plea -- oh, up until 19 today, have you ever written this Court, clerk of the 20 Court, my office, the State's Attorney office, the 21 attorney's office complaining about his services? 22 THE DEFENDANT: No, I haven't. 23 THE COURT: I find your plea to be free and 24 voluntary and I accept it. I find your waiver of court 25 and jury trial to be knowing and voluntary and I accept it. And finally, I find that the Defendant is pleading guilty with a complete understanding of the nature of the charges and the consequences of the plea. You can have a seat.

MR. COHEN: Thank you.

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MR. BRYANT: Your Honor, on January 28th, 2019, Officer Dutterer responded to 3527 North Rolling Road in Baltimore County in reference to a disturbance involving a gun. Officer Dutterer arrived at the location and spoke with a victim, Calvert Watkins, who was walking from the intersection of North Rolling Road and Liberty Road. Mr. Watkins advised Officer Dutterer that he had received a text earlier that day from the Defendant, Andre Small, who was a property manager at his office location. That text indicating that Mr. Small was going to kill Mr. Watkins. Officer Dutterer was able to observe the text message stating in part, I will kill you. Mr. Watkins called 911 after receiving that text message and then was on the phone providing information and was advised to exit the location. Mr. Watkins indicated that he walked out of his office and headed towards the exit of the building when he was confronted by the Defendant. During that confrontation with the Defendant, the Defendant then produced a semi-automatic handgun in his right hand and then pointed that handgun at the victim indicating that he would kill him. Mr. Watkins then left the building in fear for his life and his safety. He went to the Bank of America located at 8235 Liberty Road where there was an armed security guard in order to prevent further confrontation. Police then arrived at the location and had Mr. Watkins complete a witness statement.

Officer Dutterer then conducted a search through MCIC for firearms registered to the Defendant. Officer Dutterer was able to discover that the Defendant had a Smith and Wesson model 4114 handgun registered in his name. Officer Dutterer and Officer Temple spoke with Andre Small over the phone who indicated that he knew why the police were contacting him and did agree to meet with police at his residence in Owings Mills, Maryland. The Defendant then spoke with and did admit to sending the text message threatening to kill the victim and did turn over his handgun that he had in his possession at his residence.

All events did occur in Baltimore County,
Maryland. If called to testify, witnesses would
identify the Defendant as the responsible party. That
would be the State's case in support of the plea.

THE COURT: Mr. Cohen.

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             MR. COHEN: Pursuant to the plea agreement, no
 2
    additions or corrections.
 3
             THE COURT: The facts are sufficient to find
    the Defendant guilty of Count 1. It is a binding plea
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 5
    but I will hear from anybody that wants to say
 6
    anything. Mr. Bryant?
 7
             MR. BRYANT: Your Honor --
 8
             THE COURT: Like I said, it is binding.
 9
             MR. BRYANT: I will submit on that.
10
             MR. COHEN: I have three pieces of mitigation
11
    but since it is a binding plea I will be quiet except
12
    to say one thing. I have been doing this for 30 years
13
    as a defense attorney. Mr. Small is the first client
14
    that ever asked me would he be able to vote. Never had
15
    a single client ask me that question.
16
             THE COURT: Ask you what?
17
             MR. COHEN: He asked me would he be able to
18
    vote after getting a conviction. I told him no. Never
19
    had anybody ask me that question. I thought it was
20
    interesting information.
21
             THE COURT: It is indicative of the quality of
22
    your client.
23
                         Thank you. I will submit.
             MR. COHEN:
24
                         Anything from your client?
             THE COURT:
25
             MR. COHEN:
                         No. Mr. Small, do you wish to be
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heard? He doesn't want to address the Court.
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 2
             THE DEFENDANT: Nothing else.
 3
             MR. COHEN:
                         Thank you, Your Honor.
 4
             THE COURT:
                         All right. Sentence of the Court
 5
    is as follows: Five years suspended. He gets credit
 6
    for one day. One year supervised probation, all
    standard conditions to apply. I will waive the fine
 7
 8
    but he will pay the Court costs through probation.
 9
    Same with supervision fee, as well as the CICF costs
10
    all through probation. He will have no contact with
11
    the victim whose name is?
12
             MR. BRYANT: Calvin Watkins.
13
             THE COURT: And he will complete an anger
14
    management course as directed by Parole and Probation.
15
             The handgun that was seized will be forfeited
16
    to the appropriate forfeiting authority. Anything
17
    else?
18
             MR. BRYANT: That is it, Your Honor. Thank
19
    you.
20
             THE COURT: All right. That is what you were
21
    looking at me about?
22
             MR. BRYANT: Yes.
             THE COURT: Mr. Cohen?
23
24
                         The only other thing I would say,
             MR. COHEN:
    I will file a motion for modification with an order.
25
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1 THE COURT: Yes. 2 And --MR. COHEN: 3 THE COURT: File it with that order. 4 MR. COHEN: Yes. 5 THE COURT: Would you advise him as to his 6 post trial rights, including a three judge panel. 7 MR. COHEN: Yes. Thank you. Mr. Small, you 8 have the right to file a motion for new trial. If you 9 do so you would have to file it in writing within 10 days. You have a right to file a motion for 10 11 modification and/or reduction of sentence which I will 12 file on your behalf. It has to be filed in 90 days. 13 This Court has agreed to hold the motion sub curia. No 14 promises have been made what will happen to that. Do 15 you understand that? It will be up to you to do 16 everything you are supposed to do that puts this Court 17 in a position to consider that motion; do you 18 understand that? 19 THE DEFENDANT: 20 THE COURT: If I'm to consider it, he has to 21 successfully complete his probation. 22 MR. COHEN: Absolutely, Your Honor. You also 23 have a right to file an application for leave to appeal 24 on the four limited grounds which I mentioned to you. 25 That must be filed in writing and that must be filed

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1
    within 30 days. I would not file that for you.
 2
    would advise you not to file that. The panel could
 3
    increase your -- Judge King would not be a part of that
    panel but he could tell the panel why he did what he
 4
 5
    did. And they could actually keep it the same, lower
 6
    it or raise it. So you don't want to file that motion.
7
    And the last right --
 8
              THE COURT: 90 days, 30 days to appeal, ten
 9
    days for new trial, you got all that?
10
              MR. COHEN: Yes, sir.
11
              THE COURT: All right.
12
             MR. COHEN: Thank you. I will ask you to take
13
             You will have some paperwork to sign.
    a seat.
14
             MR. BRYANT: Your Honor, thank you.
15
             MR. COHEN:
                          Thank you.
16
              (Trial recessed.)
17
18
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Randy K. Mackubin, an Official Court Reporter of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, do hereby certify that I transcribed stenographically the proceedings in the matter of State versus Small, Case Number 03-CR-19-000116 on September 16, 2019.

I further certify that the foregoing pages numbers one through 23 constitute the official transcript of proceedings as transcribed by me to the within typewritten matter in a complete and accurate manner.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 6th day of January 2020.

Randy K. Mackubin

Official Court Reporter